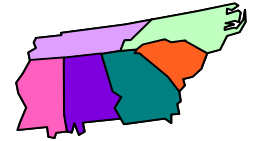




REGIONAL REPORT

Tennessee/South East Edition



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Fire Team USA, we would like to invite you to a special day and a half informational and training conference on fire protection for your community. We selected Memphis, Tennessee in hopes that we will have neighbors from Mississippi, Kentucky, Arkansas and Alabama to join us. The workshop will be held on March 24-25, 2010 in Memphis, Tennessee. The hotel location is the Holiday Inn Select Downtown Memphis.

All you have to do is coordinate your team, sign up, and show up! Accommodations, training, and information is provided free of charge. Registration is easy, log on to www.fireteamusa.com and register. The Fire Team USA team will make your hotel arrangements and provide you with a confirmation and details. Fire Team USA is partnering for public policy with a focus on cooperating for quality communities. This seminar is an initiative to bring fire marshals, fire chiefs, elected officials, building officials, and other stakeholders from communities together to learn and share fire prevention methods and alternatives that affect our quality of life. Public policy on fire protection is important in our communities for lots of reasons and a main concern is the well-being of our citizens as well as controlling the rising cost of providing such services. Let us come together and explore our options for the future. Policy makers, fire service officials, and other stakeholders must partner together to ensure that quality of life is maintained as our communities grow and transition.

South Carolina – Building code council votes to keep sprinklers in the Code

As reported by Randy Safer, NFPA, Southern Regional Manager

Today the South Carolina Building Code Council voted 6-3 in favor of leaving the residential sprinkler requirements in the 09 IRC to become effective Jan. 1, 2011. The fire service (especially John Reich and Sondra Senn) did a good job of lining all of us up to testify. There were many firefighters there in class A's. Same old arguments from the South Carolina Home Builders Association that y'all have heard a hundred times. The hearing lasted all day and the look on the faces of the homebuilders when the vote was taken-priceless.

From the Editor – Standby this is far from over

Kimball, Tennessee - opts out of home sprinkler code

KIMBALL, Tenn. -- City officials believe it won't be long until sprinkler systems are required for all new homes in Tennessee, but for now, they're holding off that mandate as long as possible.

At its February meeting, the Kimball Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted to approve the first reading of a new ordinance that basically replaces the 2003 International Building Code with the 2009 edition.

The board endorsed the code update except for a section that requires sprinkler systems in new single-family homes.

"Tennessee passed a law last year that allows you to opt out if you don't want to require sprinkler systems in your single-family residences, and most jurisdictions have opted out of that," City Attorney Billy Gouger said.

Fire Chief Jeff Keef said it's only a matter of time before the state requires such systems.

"It's going to bring on a lot more (costs) than just sprinkling the house," he said. "You've got to have the water supply to run the sprinkler system."

Chief Keef said that even if adaptations such as using plastic water lines have reduced costs, the systems will cause other unforeseen problems for residents.

"If the kids are in there throwing the ball around the bedroom and knock one of the sprinkler heads off, you've got a large mess in about a minute. Usually the person living in the house doesn't know where to cut it off," he said.

"I know it's coming, but I agree we need to hold off on it as long as we can."

Isn't it a shame that the phone of the Executive Director or the President of the Tennessee Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association did not ring and anyone from Kimball did not ask for any assistance or questions about residential fire sprinklers.

The Economy – The Fire Sprinkler Roundtable

January was not a good month for the equity markets here and abroad. Your 401K's may have lost as much as 15%. February is starting off on a much more positive note ...but as you all know a paper loss is not a loss until you sell.

Field reports on new business activity remain quite grim. Jobs under contract are being postponed indefinitely or cancelled because financing is non-existent. Economic reports suggest an impending commercial real estate crisis on loans which will default...we are talking about a potential financial "meltdown" approaching 1.5 trillion dollars. While balance sheets for a majority of businesses are improving dramatically, layoffs and consolidation of business units are the main reasons. Unfortunately, no new hires or capital expenditures are expected in the near term. Excess capacity at every level is the culprit and until we see some dramatic absorption in both residential and non-residential space we will continue to "muddle along".

Government debt is also a major concern and there remains a lingering concern that inflation will rear its head. While long term prospects for the industry remain "bright" the concern in the sprinkler marketplace is fewer companies will be around to

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participate in that market unless we see some dramatic increase in non-residential construction. We would like to hear from our readers as to what you are seeing in your market areas. [Please leave your comments here!](#)

Fire & Emergency Service Colleagues – Tennessee Fire Service Day on the Hill

It's the time of year to show our state legislators what we show our communities everyday and that is that WE CARE! Join us on March 16, 2010 for Fire Department Day on the Hill. An agenda is attached to this e-mail.

Please click on <http://fs16.formsite.com/ISFSI/FDDayonHill/index.html> to register to attend. We need to know the number who plan to attend so we can have an adequate amount for lunch. Speaking of lunch, we request each fire service member attending bring at least a \$10.00 donation for lunch. The meals are free for all invitees, which mean we the fire service need to help fund this event to minimize the impact to the Coalition.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing everyone on the Hill.

Sincerely,
The Tennessee Fire Service Coalition

NFSA Offers Online Support

Efforts to block the adoption of residential fire-sprinkler regulations prompted the National Fire Sprinkler Association to an [online resource toolbox](#), which will provide community leaders with the information necessary to make the case for fire-sprinkler code adoption.

"The NFSA has experienced an upswing in requests for information regarding local code adoption and/or standalone fire sprinkler legislation," President John Viniello said.

The NFSA's free resource toolbox offers reports, articles, documents and brochures related to residential fire sprinklers and fire safety that provide guidance for making the case for fire-sprinkler code adoption. The goal of the toolbox is to highlight resources that have proved beneficial at the local level. Reports include the *Home Fire Sprinkler Cost Assessment* and the *Residential Fire Sprinklers and Housing Economics /A Legislator's Guide to Life Safety*.

"Local community leaders need all of the latest information in one place, where it is easy to access and use for their specific needs," said Shane Ray, the organization's director of public fire protection. "It can be overwhelming when you realize how many resources are available."

Tennessee FIRE SPRINKLER CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION IS OFFERING:

**INSPECTION AND TESTING NICET REVIEW SEMINAR 3 DAY
LEARN THE SKILLS REQUIRED TO PASS NICET LEVEL II EXAM**



Chapter of NFSA

DATE OF CLASS

APRIL 5,6,7, 2009 – MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO THE TENNESSEE FIRE SPRINKLER CONTRACTORS WEB SITE AT WWW.TFSCA.COM AND CLICK ON THE TRAINING TAB

Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2009

Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act Introduced In Senate

On Friday, January 22, 2010, Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), with Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) as primary cosponsor, introduced the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2010. The bill is the Senate companion bill to HR 1194 in the House of Representatives introduced last year by Representatives Jim Langevin (D-RI) and Eric Cantor (R-VA).

The FSIA intends to amend the 1986 Internal Revenue Code to classify fire sprinkler retrofits as a five year property for purposes of depreciation. Passage of this landmark fire protection legislation will accelerate cost recovery of fire sprinkler retrofits in a large inventory of critical occupancies built under older codes prior to requirements for inclusion of fire sprinkler systems and get us one giant step closer to a fire safe America.

Hats off to a small working group of allied organizations who have worked tirelessly over the past several months on behalf of many more groups to get this bill introduced. In addition, we applaud the vision and leadership of Senators Carper and Collins in joining together to insure bipartisan support for a very important quality of life issue.

To view the up to date information on the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act please go to www.nfsa.org or click on the

NFSA 2010 Annual Seminar in Chicago April 14-18

The Fairmont Chicago in Chicago, Illinois will host NFSA's 2010 Annual Seminar. Due to economic conditions, the NFSA Board of Directors unanimously endorsed a recommendation of the Seminar and Exhibition Committee to move the venue from the Hawaiian Islands to the mainland. Look for details on extended business sessions and timely topics on how to maintain a competitive edge in a very difficult business environment. The business sessions will be conducted on Thursday April 15 and Friday April 16. Details will follow in special mailings and on our website.